

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH – 2007

STAFF

Director of Public Health - Roger J. Wade, M.S.P.H.

Senior Environmental Health Specialist - James M. White, B.A., C.P.H., R.S.

Public Health Nurse – Leila Mercer, R.N., B.S.N.

Sanitarian – Michael K. Boudreau, M.P.A., R.S.

Administrative Assistant - Pamela Morgan, B.A.

P/T Department Assistant – Jean Cotter

Animal Inspector - Edward A. Zullo, D.V.M.

Animal Inspector – Anthony Cosimini, D.V.M.

The following communicable and reportable diseases were reported to the Board of Health during 2007:

Babesiosis	1
Campylobacter	9
Varicella (Chickenpox)	25
Giardiasis	18
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis C	5
Hepatitis D	0
Lyme Disease	33
Meningitis (Viral)	6
Pertussis	1
Salmonellosis	8
Group A Strep Invasive	1
Group B Strep Invasive	0
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1
E. coli 0157:H7	1
Shiga Toxin (STEC)	0
S. pneumoniae	2
Shigella	0
Cryptosporidium	1

Malaria	1
Ehrlichiosis	1
Total	119

Home visits made for contagion and other related matters totaled 51. Mantoux skin tests for tuberculosis totalled 23. 1 positive reactor was identified and followed up.

At our weekly Blood Pressure Screening Clinics, 555 residents participated, with 11 referrals to private physicians.

Flu Clinics were held in the fall according to State guidelines, with both influenza and pneumococcal vaccines available. A total of 1,623 influenza and 109 pneumococcal inoculations were administered.

Fees collected and returned to the Town Treasury for various licenses, permits, fees, and inspections totalled \$174,630.38. This total includes \$15,655.88 in Medicare reimbursements.

In addition, \$700 was collected by the Town Clerk for non-criminal fines issued by the Board of Health for various code violations.

A total of 15,788 doses of various biologics (vaccines) were distributed to Natick physicians during 2007.

A total of 951 inspections were conducted for 404 food establishments of all types, including restaurants, markets, bakeries, caterers, clubs, schools, canteen trucks, food manufacturers, fairs, the hospital, and nursing homes. A total of 3,204 inspections, complaint investigations, progress inspections, and field consultations were carried out by Board of Health staff relative to environmental sanitation, housing, nursing homes, underground storage tanks, sewerage, drainage, swimming pools, day camps, livestock, hazardous materials, and other public health matters.

A total of 6 Show Cause Hearings, Court Cases, and Administrative Hearings were necessary during 2007.

The problem of an ever increasing workload for the professional staff continues unabated. All of the increased work is required by statute or regulation and is not optional. It has become increasingly difficult and sometimes impossible to perform all required work in a timely manner. For example, from 1994 to 2007 the number of licensed food establishments has increased from 239 to 404, an increase of 69 percent. The number of plan

reviews of all types has increased by 364 percent, from 111 to 515. Many other responsibilities have increased comparably, yet staffing levels are the same now as they were in the early 1990's.

Last year we also reported on the significant increase in site plan review, on-site soil testing, and meetings with builders and engineers, all associated with the requirement that the Board of Health must approve grading and drainage for building permits. This increase has not abated. In addition the number of regulated and licensed facilities of all types has continued to increase, along with the number and complexity of applicable regulations. Meetings and consultations relative to Title 5 (septic system) issues, which became a significant time-consuming function in the late 1990's, have continued to increase in number, from 321 in 1997 to 698 in 2006, a 117 percent increase.

The 2007 Annual Town Meeting approved the addition of an environmental engineer/inspector position to allow the Board of Health to address this overwhelming workload and to protect the public health of Natick residents and visitors by performing required duties in a more timely manner. We hope to fill that position during the first half of 2008 when the Town's financial picture becomes more clear.

During 2007 Dr. Edward A. Zullo, D.V.M., completed his 60th year as Animal Inspector for the Town, a truly remarkable accomplishment

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Delli Colli, D.M.D., Chairman

Michael D. Bliss, J.D.

Donald J. Breda, P.E.

Alan G. Cole, M.D.
Physician to the Board

Roger J. Wade, M.S.P.H.
Director of Public Health